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engagement

2C's Joey
Sunday chosen
for All-State

INSIDE
Todd Grant kills
9-point buck

The Elba Clipper

Volume 110, Number 34

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, February 1, 2007

1 Section, 12 Pages

Elba Police Department presents Phase I of Women's Safety Course

Instructor encourages all women to develop preventative mind set

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba Police Department presented Phase I of a Women's Safety Course last Thursday evening, Jan. 25, from the community room of the Elba Fire Department.

Phase I of the course included instruction on sexual harassment, assault and rape prevention class.

Throughout the evening, Hussey stressed prevention. He said one of the main purposes of the class is to teach women how to control their environment and prevent such things as sexual harassment, assault and rape.

"Predators very rarely attack someone perceived to be of equal strength," Hussey said. He explained the difference between professional and personal harassment and gave the ladies several ideas on how to avoid being a victim of each. However, with each, he spoke of personality.

"The personality you project is very important," Hussey said. "You can't be perceived as someone that can be run over." He said an assailant of harassment generally tends to look for women he perceives as having a

"We are your police department," Hanchey said. "And, we are here for you."

Hanchey also said Phase II of the Safety Course will be presented at a later date and will include a lesson on firearm safety. He encouraged the women to also participate in that phase of the course.

Chief Hanchey introduced the instructor for sexual harassment, assault and rape prevention class. He said officer Leslie Hussey is assigned to the Elba Police Department through the Twelfth Judicial Drug Task Force and has received certification to teach the sexual harassment, assault and rape prevention class.

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Please See CLASS, Page 11



OFFICER LESLIE HUSSEY (left), instructor of the sexual harassment, assault and rape prevention class, demonstrates a defense technique for ladies to use in an attempt to get away from a predator. Hussey was assisted during the class by fellow officer Dean Blair. The two officers demonstrated and explained several different defense techniques.



EMERGENCY PERSONNEL RESPONDED Thursday afternoon, Jan. 25, to a three-vehicle accident on E. Davis Street (Hwy. 84 E.) in Elba. The accident occurred at approximately 3:26 p.m. According to police, a 2003 Dodge Stratus, driven by Peggy Johnson, age 47, of Elba, was traveling east on Davis St. (Hwy. 84) when a 1997 Honda Accord, driven by Reese Alan Watson, age 16, of Chancellor, Ala., attempted to make a left turn from Davis St. onto Reddoch Hill Road. In making the turn, Watson failed to yield right-of-way to Johnson thus causing collision. The third vehicle involved was an unoccupied 1998 Nissan that was parked in a nearby yard. The police report indicates Watson's vehicle hit the unoccupied vehicle after the initial collision with Johnson's vehicle. The accident resulted in three people being transported to Elba General Hospital for medical treatment. Johnson and a passenger from her vehicle, Tanesha Johnson, each were transported from the scene by a unit from Coffee County EMS. Also, Nicholas G. Smith, a passenger from Watson's vehicle, was transported to Elba General by a unit from Opportunity Rescue. The accident was investigated by the Elba Police Department. Also responding to the scene was the Elba Fire Department.

REMINDER

Elba Chief of Police
Friday, January 26, 2007
Hussey is the instructor
for the Women's Safety Course
at the Elba Fire Department
community room. The course
will be held from 7:00 p.m. to
9:00 p.m. The course is free of
charge. For more information,
call 251-381-1111.

Area Happenings

Throughout his career, Hussey has attended numerous advanced courses in general and drug investigation. He is certified as a Hazardous Material and Clandestine Lab Technician. He also is certified as a PPCT Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention instructor.

Just last week, Inv. Hussey presented a sexual harassment, assault and rape prevention class as part of a Women's Safety Course being offered by the Elba Police Department.



THE FIRST OF TWO ACCIDENTS that occurred Thursday afternoon, Jan. 25, on Davis Street (Hwy. 84 E.) in Elba sent one person to the hospital. At approximately 12:58 p.m., a two-vehicle accident involving an 18-wheeler and a small car was reported, and emergency personnel was dispatched to the scene. According to police, both the 1995 Chevrolet GEO, driven by Shannon Lee Winters, age 23, of Elba, and the 2006 International, driven by Morgan Larry Snellgrove II, age 37, of Headland, were traveling westbound on Davis St. (Hwy. 84) when the collision occurred. The accident report indicates Winters saw two raccoons run into her path on the highway. She slowed down or almost stopped to avoid hitting the animals. Snellgrove was traveling behind Winters, and unable to stop, he struck the back of Winters' vehicle when she slowed. Winters was transported to Elba General Hospital by a unit from Coffee County EMS for medical treatment. The accident was investigated by the Elba Police Department. Also responding to the scene was the Elba Fire Department.

During recent Coffee County Commission meeting

County engineer presents project update

by Linda Hodge, Editor

During a recent Coffee County Commission meeting, Senator Jimmy Holley and Representative Terry Spicer announced two industrial grants received by Coffee County. Following their presentation, county engineer Randy Tindell provided Commissioners with an update on the Fiscal Year 2007 scheduled contracted bridge and road projects for the county.

Tindell said the projects slated for work this year will cost a total of approximately \$2,648,440; however, only \$535,908 will come from county funds. The remaining funds will come from state and federal monies. He said federal funds for the projects will be \$1,131,632 while state funds applied will be \$980,900.

"That's a pretty good return on county money," Tindell said.

The \$980,900 in state funds mentioned by Tindell mostly comes from the two industrial grants announced by Holley and Spicer. Of that, a \$900,000 Industrial Access Grant was approved for County Road 114 and an \$80,000 grant was

approved for county roads 704 and 259. The County Road 114 resurfacing project will begin at Alabama Highway 167 and end at County Road 138. It currently is scheduled for construction from June through August. Tindell said this project is funded entirely by state funds at \$900,900.

The County roads 704 and 259 resurfacing project is scheduled for construction in March. Tindell said it will begin at Alabama Hwy. 51 (county line) and end at Alabama Hwy 167 and Hwy. 248. The total cost of this project is set at \$128,000 with \$80,000 from state funds and \$48,000 from county funds.

Other projects announced by Tindell included:

- County Road 208 resurfacing project currently slated for construction from February through April. Tindell said the total cost of this project will be \$335,120 with \$268,096 from federal funds and \$67,024 from county funds. The project will begin at County Rd. 215 and end at Ala. Hwy. 87.
- County Road 156 resurfacing project currently slated for construction from February

through April. Tindell said the total cost of this project will be \$380,130 with \$304,104 from federal funds and \$76,026 from county funds. The project will begin at Ala. Hwy. 167 and end at Ala. Hwy. 27.

- County Road 401 resurfacing project currently slated for construction from February through April. Tindell said the total cost of this project will be \$84,460 with \$67,568 from federal funds and \$16,892 from county funds. The project will begin at Ala. Hwy. 87 and end at the Elba City Limits.
- County Road 708 resurfacing project currently slated for construction from February through April. Tindell said the total cost of this project will be \$614,830 with \$491,864 from federal funds and \$122,966 from county funds. The project will begin at the county line and end at County Rd. 709.

- County Road 546 bridge project slated for January through February. Tindell said the total cost of this project is \$205,000 with the entire \$205,000 coming from county funds.

Tindell also noted that County Road 546 is slated to be resurfaced later in the year.

To Serve and Protect: Meet the Elba Police

Investigator Leslie Hussey has served 11 years with the Elba Police Department. He served two years as patrol officer has been an investigator assigned to the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Drug Task Force for nine years.

Inv. Hussey has a total of 23 years of police service. He also served 12 years as a deputy with the Coffee County Sheriff's Department.

Throughout his career, Hussey has attended numerous advanced courses in general and drug investigation. He is certified as a Hazardous Material and Clandestine Lab Technician. He also is certified as a PPCT Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention instructor.

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Investigator Leslie Hussey

Hussey enjoys hunting and working with his hands. His family includes his son, Patrick, and dog.

Obituaries

SCHOOLS



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Ashton Rodriguez
& Clara Burrows

Student-Faculty basketball game set for Friday, Feb. 16, at E.H.S.

by Ashton Rodriguez

The St. Beta Club will be holding its annual student-faculty basketball game Friday, Feb. 16, at 1:20 p.m.

Proceeds from the game will be donated to further research of Cystic Fibrosis. This year's seniors are hoping to get a victory for the student body, but the teachers also are sure they will win, as usual.

School board members visit EES

by Ryan McCollough

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, the Elba City School Board paid a visit to Elba Elementary School. The school board members were treated to a delicious lunch prepared by the Elba Elementary lunchroom staff.

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, the Junior class at Elba High came together and voted on the most anticipated event of the year.

The 2007 junior prom committee worked together and came up with three themes. As a class, the juniors voted, and the winning theme from among the three choices was "Romance and Roses." This theme won overwhelmingly.

The committee chairman and committee members will be working hard as the countdown to Prom 2007 begins!

ATTENTION: EHS SENIOR PARENTS!!

The absolute deadline for grad ads is February 2, 2007. No orders will be taken after this date. The cost is: 1/8 page - \$50 + \$5 for color; 1/4 page - \$90 + \$10 for color; 1/2 page - \$100 + \$15 for color; and Full page - \$160 + \$20 for color.

Brianna Bailey participates in Alabama Junior Miss program

by Lauren McClung

On Jan. 19 and 20, 53 high school senior girls competed for the title of Alabama's Junior Miss 2007.

Among these talented young ladies was Elba High School's Brianna Bailey. Brianna won Coffee County's Junior Miss in August 2006, which was a preliminary to the state title.

The girls were judged in five categories including: talent, fitness, self-expression, interview, and a "Be Your Best Self" essay. Throughout the week, Brianna and the other contestants learned their fitness routine, an opening number production, and a dance to showcase the girls in their evening gowns.

Brianna left school early Friday, Jan. 12, to prepare for her weeklong stay in Montgomery. The organizers of the program had various activities planned for the girls to keep them busy the entire week. They toured Montgomery and even made a stop at the Montgomery Zoo.

Brianna said she had a wonderful time, and it was a great experience; but she was excited to be home, again.

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CCYLP provides valuable lessons

by Yoquecha Terry

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, the Coffee County Youth Leadership Program (CCYLP) had another lesson about leadership as well as practicing abstinence.

The group was introduced to Gary Brown, a sex educator, from Covington, Ga.

Mr. Brown discussed with the group that abstinence is very important in today's time. He said the problem with today's generation is sex, drugs and young people not wanting to submit to authority.

Mr. Brown told his life's stories about what pressures he experienced and how he helped to make his school better. After giving up what he was influencing younger kids to do, as a senior, Mr. Brown and his friend started a new tradition at his high school. Mr. Brown and his friend met the freshmen of their school every day, greeted them, and showed them their classes.

Now, at Mr. Brown's high school, on the first day of school the seniors help the freshmen to find their lockers and classes.

Mr. Brown concluded his program with a discussion of leadership skills. He told the group the keys to being a good leader and how many people cannot achieve being a good leader after the fourth level of leadership skills.

Mr. Brown told the group about a new website that will help keep kids off of MySpace and help them in different situations.



Elsie Hilton, a retired home economics teacher, spoke Wednesday, Jan. 17, to students involved with the Coffee County Youth Leadership Program (CCYLP). She offered a lesson regarding the proper way to eat in different situations.

The website is www.OurSpace.biz. The next speaker was Elsie Hilton.

Mrs. Hilton is a retired home economics teacher and etiquette teacher. She spoke to the group about the proper way to eat in different situations.

Mrs. Hilton explained one should always work inward when he or she is attending a formal dinner. The group learned how to place silverware on the correct side on the table and also how to exit and enter one's seat.

In conclusion, the CCYLP students had a great time as they learned it is okay to be a leader and to stand alone.

Student Spotlight

by Tierney Starks

This week's Student Spotlight focuses on Thomas Cordel Carrington Hooks. He goes by the name of Cordel.

Cordel is the 17-year-old junior of Tom and Linda Hooks. His hobbies include hanging out with friends and playing all sports.

Cordel is a member of the St. Beta Club, EHS Ambassadors, Varsity Football and Varsity Baseball teams. His future plans are to attend Florida State University (FSU) or the University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) to major in medicine.



Cordel Hooks. When asked, Cordel said he would describe himself as a really fly guy and easy to get along with.

Elba High School seniors visit Enterprise-Ozark Community College

by Melanie Mularz

Last Monday, Jan. 22, was a day of learning and preparing for the seniors at Elba High School.

The seniors toured Enterprise-Ozark Community College (EOCC) and spoke with many recruiters and staff members, including Terry Parker, Joey Holley, Chip Quisenberry and Coach Tim Hulsey. The class was entertained during their break by the Entertainers and were fed lunch by the staff from EOCC.

The seniors were informed about the importance of college, financial aid and the many scholarships EOCC has to offer high school seniors. Before leaving, the seniors were led in a tour by the mentors of the campus and talked with many other staff personnel.

In a short interview counselor Lynn Weeks stated, "I think the trip was very educational and a great experience for the seniors."

Also, seniors Emily Driggers and Crystal Bradshaw said overall it was informative, detailed and in depth.

Visit the Elba City Schools website at: www.elbaed.com

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of the things we Think, Say or Do

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- Second - Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Third - Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Fourth - Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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ELBA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS PAID A VISIT RECENTLY to Enterprise-Ozark Community College recently where they learned all about being admitted to college, registering for classes, applying for financial aid, selecting a major, attending classes, and joining college clubs and organizations. The EOCC Mentors, the College's official hosts, assisted students with questions and decisions and took the seniors on a tour of the Enterprise Campus.

Gym floor refurbished at Elba High School

by Erica Daniels

The Elba Tiger gym recently was sanded down to the bare wood, the lines were repainted and the floor was completely redone.

The floor was redone by Hughes Flooring Company, Prattville, Ala. The Tiger in the center of the floor was painted by Chief Wilson Spottedbird.

Other additions to the floor are the Tiger Paws in the four corners, and the Elba Tigers at each end of the court. The gym is also lined off for two side courts for tournament play.

In addition the bleachers were also refurbished.



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SCHOOLS



Zion Chapel High School
REBEL NEWS
Julie Norris, Sponsor

Focus on Faculty

(Sixth Grade Educators)

by Summer Parker and Stephanie Berry

Name: Mrs. Kirkland
When is your birthday?

Nov. 26, 1975

How long have you been teaching? This is my third year with ZC sixth grade. Taught in 10 elementary schools throughout Coffee County as a nutrition agent with Alabama Cooperation Extension System for four years.

What do you think about Zion Chapel? Zion Chapel is the best! From the students, faculty, and community to very spirit of all who live here and attend school here.

What is your favorite thing about teaching? I love the look on a student's face when they finally "get it!"

What are your hobbies? Spending time with my husband, Joel, and my son, Shaw. I also enjoy going to the lake, reading, and walking outdoors.

What clubs/organizations are you involved in? Co-Sponsor of the ZC Junior Beta Club, Altrusa Int. of Jack, BBST team member.

What is your biggest achievement? Becoming a mom - my son is such an amazing little person. What is your most embarrassing moment? The fact that I am clumsy embarrasses me quite often. I fall often!

Do you have any children? Yes. Shaw. He will be three in November.

What college(s) did you attend? Troy University (B.S. and M. Ed.)

Auburn or Alabama? Roll Tide! Anything else interesting or unique that you'd like to share? I love sixth graders because they are so genuine and energetic. They really keep you on your toes. The football stadium, Green Memorial Stadium is named after my grandfather Essie D. Green.

My grandmother, Mrs. Madie B. Green taught school here many years ago. My parents graduated at Zion Chapel and so did I. Go Rebels!

Name: Mrs. St. John
When is your birthday?

December 4th

How long have you been teaching? This is my second year teaching at Zion Chapel.

What do you think about Zion Chapel? Zion Chapel has people who work hard to provide a quality education. ZC has many bright, talented, polite, and entertaining students. Many parents are involved. I've met a lot of great people.

What is your favorite thing about teaching? I love seeing students get excited about science. I enjoy discussing how and why things work. It is always interesting to hear new ideas and possibilities from the students.

What are your hobbies? I like going to the beach, singing, watching the news, and reading about space. Also, I love to travel with my husband when we get the chance.

What clubs/organizations are you involved in? I attend church in Montgomery. I am a member of the Civil Air Patrol for education and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

What is your biggest achievement? I was the Employee of the Year at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL, for the year 2000.

What is your most embarrassing moment? In high school, I accidentally walked into the boy's restroom one time at a choir competition.

Do you have any children? I have six children Monday-Friday. I only have three cats at home who are my children.

What college(s) did you attend? University of North Alabama Auburn or Alabama? Alabama! Anything else interesting or unique you'd like to share? I once ate dinner with an astronaut and a geologist who trained the Apollo astronauts.

Name: Mrs. Mozzo
When is your birthday?

September 4

How long have you been teaching? 36 yrs, 14 at Zion Chapel

What do you think about Zion Chapel? A lot like the school it is wonderful. I attended for high school

What is your favorite thing about teaching? When someone learns something and I can tell they understand

What are your hobbies? Scuba diving, traveling, and reading

What clubs/organizations are you involved in? Church

What is your biggest achievement? Raising 3 great children

What is your most embarrassing moment? When I asked for the restroom in Japanese and misread the words and asked for a chicken leg

Do you have any children? If so, how many? 3

What college(s) did you attend? Northern State (SD), University of Arkansas, University of Maryland, Central Arkansas State, Troy University, and AUM

Auburn or Alabama? Troy University!!!

Anything else interesting or unique that you'd like to share? I Love to travel, I have snowed on a glacier.

ZC's Joey Sunday chosen for All-State

by Rod Rhodes & Clint Rider

Joey Sunday has achieved an honor worth mentioning. Sunday has been chosen for the Alabama Sports Writers Association's All-State team.

Having been the first person to receive this honor in nearly 30 years, Zion Chapel is surely proud of his success.

When asked what it means to represent his school in All-State, Sunday replied, "It means a lot to me...it makes me extremely proud, I worked hard and did what Coach Lees told me to do and the rest just worked out for the best."

Players are selected throughout the State of Alabama by coaches and members of the Alabama Sports Writers Association. There is a separate All-State team for each division.

Coach Harry Lees has stood behind Sunday from the very beginning. He was asked what qualities coaches look for in potential All-State nominees. "We try to look for somebody who stands out, who keeps a good attitude and carries the team, someone who always gives 110%," said Lees.

Erica Lewis nominated for Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Athlete Award

by Matt Williams and Davanna Parker

Every year, Alabama high school seniors are nominated for the Bryant-Jordan Scholar-Athlete award.

This award, named after Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and Coach Ralph Jordan, gives the senior a scholarship from \$1,500 to \$3,000. Other scholarships are also available through the award.

The Zion Chapel senior nominated this year is Erica Lewis. Erica is an exceptional student, who participates in many activities and sports including: cheer-

leading, softball, basketball and Beta club.

The Bryant-Jordan Scholar-Athlete Award is one of the top awards given at our school. It recognizes a Zion Chapel student that has been successful in class and in athletic endeavors," said Principal Jerry Barnes who selected Erica for the award.

When selecting a winner, factors that are considered include scholastic standing, athletic success, athletic honors, student leadership and civic and church leadership.

The winners will be announced April 9, 2007 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel.

Zion Chapel FBLA gives to others

by Loyd White

At Zion Chapel High School, the students of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) began the season of giving by providing Thanksgiving dinner to two deserving families within the Coffee County area.

While the families remain unknown to the students, the selfless lesson of sharing and giving will remain a memory to them forever. Many students reached into their own pockets and provided money to purchase the needed food while parents within the school gave of their time and energy to make this possible.

Kelley Foods of Alabama, located in Elba, generously donated the turkeys to make the meal just perfect.

Davis: I want to win a state championship! We play baseball for two reasons. 1) For fun, it's a game and 2) to be the best. In order to be the best, you must beat the best!

How many years have you participated in a baseball program? Davis: This will be my third season being involved in the Rebel baseball program.

Davis: Baseball has been a big part of my life for the better part of my life. I began playing back when I was five years old. I have been a part of some great teams including one that finished number three in the nation and runner up in the World Series.

What have you done to improve the baseball field? Davis: We have our annual Hit-A-Thon scheduled for around February 17th. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. I hope everyone will come out and support the Rebel baseball and softball teams during this event. We will post more information at a later date. The guys have already started asking for sponsors and donations.

Davis: Yes! We will be having our annual Hit-A-Thon very soon. We would appreciate everyone's support in helping us raise money for the upcoming season!

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Q & A: 2007 Baseball Season

by Sheena-Marie Hussey and Brittany Dismukes

Baseball season is soon to be underway at Zion Chapel. Recently, the two baseball coaches, Head Coach Thomas Boswell and Assistant Coach Lucas Davis were interviewed.

How do you expect the 2007 baseball season to go? Boswell: As a team we always want to improve from the previous season. I feel we really have a great group of guys that are eager to work hard and get better every day. We always want to set a goal to win our area games and make the playoffs.

Davis: Given that we have very few seniors on this year's team, I expect this season to be a learning experience for the whole team. As long as we get better on and off the field each day, this will be a season to remember.

Do you have any special plans for the baseball team? Boswell: The players probably don't think our plans are "special," but we do plan on working harder than we ever have before. I told the players this before the season began. We have already started throwing and conditioning and I am really proud of the guys' effort so far.

Davis: I want to win a state championship! We play baseball for two reasons. 1) For fun, it's a game and 2) to be the best. In order to be the best, you must beat the best!

How many years have you participated in a baseball program? Boswell: This will be my third season being involved in the Rebel baseball program.

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SPORTS

Views From....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Our oldest daughter stopped by the house over the weekend and dropped off a book from school, a notebook and a work sheet. She said she had a lot of homework to do and needed some help, but I don't know how much help I can be when I can't even spell the name of the course. Oh well, I just hope the few answers I wrote down were right!

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH...

*** The Elba Tigers continued their late-season struggles last week with area losses to Straughn and Calhoun, and now will need to win the flip of a coin to avoid facing highly-ranked Calhoun in the opening round of next week's area tournament. The Tigers scored a season-low 26 points in their home court loss to Straughn, while later in the week never really had a chance as they fell on the road to Calhoun. Elba has perhaps the youngest varsity team in the state, starting four sophomores, and I have to wonder if the wear and tear of playing 23 games has taken its toll on the youthful Tigers. When a team is winning the players sometimes don't realize how tired they are. However, when the losses begin to mount the mind can often follow the body and when players are tired mentally and physically, the results are often lopsided losses. Hopefully the Tigers will regroup and make a late-season run, but from where I sit in the bleachers that may only be wishful thinking.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers suffered two lopsided losses last week to see their record slip to 5-15, and after a mid-season surge, even the biggest Lady Tiger fans have to think the girls are ready to hang up their sneakers. The Lady Tigers scored only 3 points in the second half early in the week in an area loss to Straughn, while late in the week they were outmatched in a road loss to Calhoun. Elba has proven it can play well enough to win at times and can't be written off quite yet. However, with the area tourney coming up next week the Lady Tigers will either face a team it lost by 37 points only a week before, or the state's fifth-ranked squad on its home court. Not much of a choice!

*** With the area tournaments just around the corner, I guess it's time to look at the teams in the area and try to figure out just how they stand heading into the post-season party. Here goes... In the "Boys" division, the Brantley Bulldogs have been on a roll and will host their tournament, while New Brockton will travel to Barbour County, and Kinston and Zion Chapel will both compete at Providence Christian. The guess here is that Brantley will win the tourney and host a sub-region contest, while New Brockton faces an up-hill battle against either Barbour County or G.W. Long. That isn't the case for Kinston and Zion Chapel, since both teams have proven they can play with the area's top two teams (Providence Christian and Ariton). I look for one of the teams to pull an upset and move on to sub-region play, possibly at home. One in the "Girls" division, the Brantley Lady Bulldogs rolled through its area schedule undefeated and should be a huge favorite to win the tourney and host a sub-region contest, while Kinston is a solid favorite to emerge from its area event and continue its season at a sub-region site. Zion Chapel looked good at times early in the season and got a couple of big wins, but the Lady Rebels now appear ready to hang it up. The Lady Gamecocks always play hard, but will be up against Barbour County the opening round of the tourney, and since New Brockton lost 87-6 the last time the two teams met, the guess here is that basketball season is just about over.

*** High School baseball and softball practice will start this week all across the state, and here in Elba the players on both teams are ready to get to work. The Tigers have a very ambitious schedule that includes 19 double-headers, which means they must find a lot of pitchers in a very short time if they hope to be competitive. While the schedule will put a strain on the pitching staff and not leave any time for injuries to heal, look for the Tigers to be a team to keep an eye on. The Lady Tigers have a full schedule and will play in three tournaments, which means the Elba girls have their hand full. Last year's sub-state team saw three players sign junior college scholarships. So, this year's squad will obviously have some holes to fill. If the pitching will be solid and the defense steady, these girls could surprise some folks.

*** In closing... a fight involving players and fans resulted in a high school basketball game being stopped a few weeks ago near Montgomery, and while the incident was downplayed by the schools and didn't get a lot of publicity, it was just the latest incident that has many people worried what the future might hold. As a high school basketball official I see the game from a different angle, and can tell you first hand that sportsmanship is no longer on display in the bleachers, and often not even on the court. Many fans criticize the officials throughout the game and shout remarks they would be ashamed to say anywhere but at a sporting event, while many of the players have no respect for the officials and in an attempt to show their feelings will let a ball roll down the court instead of handing it to the ref, or will try and show the ref up by making motions. For some reason it has become accepted behavior to shout at sports officials, no matter the level of play, and I am serious when I tell my peers that one day in the not so distant future a high school official is going to be killed by an irate fan after a game. I guess that is why the National Federation of High Schools provides a \$1 million life insurance policy for its officials. If not for that, many might hang up their whistles.

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Losing streak continues

Shooting woes doom Tigers in 42-26 loss

The Elba Tigers hosted the Straughn Tigers last Tuesday night in a key area encounter and saw their chance at wrapping up the #3 seed in the upcoming area tournament slip away as they dropped a 42-26 decision.

The loss was the fifth straight for Elba and dropped the Tigers' record to 9-13, 1-4 in area competition.

Elba jumped out to an early 4-2 lead the opening stanza behind the scoring punch of Jordan Bryant and Gavin Respress, and rallied in the final minute of the quarter to regain the lead at 11-10 on a pair of free-throws by Jordan McBride and a jumper by Frank Morris. Straughn scored the first four points of the second quarter move back on top 14-11, but Elba again rallied, and sparked by Aaron Harrelson went on a 4-0 run to grab the lead at 15-14 with 4:15 remaining in the period. The Tiger rally was short-lived; however, as they failed to score a point for the rest of the quarter and went in at intermission trailing 22-15.

Elba cut the Straughn lead to 22-18 early in the third quarter on a three-pointer by Jordan Bryant, but the Tigers' offensive woes continued as they managed only two free-throws by Aaron Harrelson for the remainder of the stanza, and heading into the fourth quarter the home-town Tigers found themselves on the short end of a 33-20 score.

Elba got as close as 35-23 with 4:36 remaining on a three-

pointer by Gavin Respress and still trailed by a dozen at 37-25 with 3:35 left after Respress nailed a running jumper along the baseline. However, the Tigers never threatened to get back in the game and at the final horn suffered the 42-26 setback. Gavin Respress scored 10 points to lead Elba, while Seth Kinsaul led Straughn with 12 points.

S 10 12 11 9 - 42
E 11 4 5 6 - 26

Straughn (42): Jones 6, Felton 2, Kinsaul 12, Driver 2, T. Driver 7, Myers 3.
Elba (26): Respress 10, Harrelson 6, Bryant 5, Morris 3, Tillis 2.

(JV GAME)

The Elba JV Tigers continued their late-season struggles as their record slipped to 8-8 with a 30-28 loss to Straughn. The Tigers came out cold from the floor and trailed 10-4 after one quarter of play, but rallied in the second and third quarter and snuck ahead 21-20 heading into the final stanza. Straughn regained the lead midway through the fourth quarter and held on to hand the Tigers the narrow 30-28 loss. Keenan Phillips scored 15 points to lead Elba, while Cochran led Straughn with 11 points.

Straughn (30): Cochran 11, Armstrong 6, Garrett 3, Bryan 4.
Elba (28): Magwood 11, Reynolds 6, Phillips 15, Reed 6.

Tigers fall hard at Calhoun 73-46

The Elba Tigers saw their late-season victory drought continue Friday night with a 73-46 loss to Calhoun, at Calhoun. The loss dropped the Tigers record to 9-14, 1-5 in area play, while Calhoun upped its record to 16-5, 6-0 in area action, with the win.

Frank Morris scored 15 points to lead Elba, while DeShawn Caldwell scored 17 points and Robert McCall added 14 to lead Calhoun.

Lady Tigers drop area clash to Straughn 54-17

The Elba Lady Tigers saw their victory drought in area play continue last Tuesday night as they suffered a lopsided 54-17 loss to Straughn.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 5-14, 0-5 in area action, while Straughn upped its record to 13-5, 4-1, in area play, with the win.

The Lady Tigers came out ready to play and jumped out to an early 4-2 lead on baskets by LaFondra Thigpen and Janae Carnley, only to see Straughn answer with a 7-0 run to pull out to a 9-4 advantage midway through the opening stanza. Thigpen sparked a late rally that saw the Lady Tigers creep back in the hunt. However, at the end of the quarter Elba still trailed 13-10.

The Lady Tigers pulled to within 13-11 early in the second quarter on a free-throw by Brandy Caldwell, but didn't score again for over five minutes as Straughn regained command and opened up a 23-11 lead with 2:48 remaining in the period. A free-throw by Janae Carnley snapped the long scoreless drought for Elba, but it made little difference as Straughn never let up and carried a 25-14 lead at the half.

Elba's shooting woes carried over into the third quarter, and

Fund started for purchase of new lockers in varsity dressing room

The Elba Tigers are in need of new lockers for the varsity football locker room, and all Elba Tiger fans are encouraged to make a cash donation to help the team reach its goal.

"We are desperate need of new football lockers," stated Elba's Coach Scott Rials. "Our current lockers are metal and in really bad condition. We are looking to build wooden lockers with flip up seats. These lockers will cost \$100 each to build, and we are asking former players, students, parents, grandparents, boosters, and anyone else that is interested to help us."

In return for the donation of

\$100, a locker will have the name of the person making the donation. If the person was a former player it will also have his/her jersey number, or their graduation year if they are an Elba High grad. One may also furnish a locker in memory of someone.

"We need help to restore our lockers and to keep the pride in Elba Tiger football," added Coach Rials.

Donations may be taken to the Elba High School office or mailed to: Elba High School Locker Fund, 371 Tiger Drive, Elba, Alabama 36323.



Elba Tiger Jordan Bryant (20) gets high to lay in a basket in recent high school basketball action. The Tigers will close out the regular season Friday night with a home game against the Opp Bobcats.

(Photo by Mike Capps)



An Elba Lady Tiger gets inside a Straughn defender, only to find her path to the basket blocked. The Lady Tigers lost to Straughn last week and placed in a third place tie in area action.

(Photo by Mike Capps)

Elba Lady Tigers close area play; with 58-29 loss to Calhoun

The Elba Lady Tigers hit the road Friday night for the long ride to Calhoun and found the ride home even longer after a 58-29 defeat.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 5-15, 1-5 in area play, while Calhoun improved its record to 15-5, 5-1 in the area, with the win. Catrise Alexander scored 22 points to lead Calhoun.

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SPORTS

High School ROUND BALL ROUND-UP

Kinston Bulldogs fall late to Ariton 64-57

The Kinston Bulldogs battled until the final horn last Monday night before falling to the Ariton Purple Cats 64-57, in a key area contest for both teams. The Bulldogs carried a two-point lead into the final stanza and trailed by only two points midway through the quarter, only to see the Purple Cats pull away late to secure the win. A.J. Johnson scored 15 points to lead Kinston, while Matt Whigham added 11 and Jake Hattaway scored 9 points.

Kinston Lady Bulldogs coast to 54-26 win

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs pulled ahead early and made it look easy last Monday night in a 54-26 area win over the Ariton Lady 'Cats. The Lady Bulldogs took command at the opening tip and used a pressing defense to open up a 23-0 first quarter advantage, then easily held on to post the big home court win. Kalleigh Sanders scored 16 points to lead Kinston, while Christie Whigham added 15 and Ashley McCall scored 10.

New Brockton Gamecocks outscored 63-51

The New Brockton Gamecocks hosted the G.W. Long Rebels last Tuesday night and missed a chance to grab an important area win as they were outscored 63-51. The Gamecocks scored only three points in the opening quarter and trailed 9-3 early, but got as close as two points in the second half before watching the Rebels pull away for the win. Alex McNair scored 20 points to lead New Brockton, while Tee Morris led G.W. Long with 33 points.

Lady Gamecocks fall to G.W. Long 42-25

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks saw a furious fourth quarter rally fall far short last Tuesday night in a 42-25 loss to the G.W. Long Lady Rebels. New Brockton trailed 36-8 heading into the final stanza, but came to life and outscored Long 17-6 to cut into the big Lady Rebel lead. Valerie Hutcherson scored 7 points to lead the Lady Gamecocks.

Zion Chapel falls on the road to Eagles 59-50

The Zion Chapel Rebels saw another inspired effort fall short as they dropped a 59-50 decision to the Providence Christian Eagles, Friday night in Dothan. Adam Carter scored 25 points and Zach Stephens added 13 to lead the Rebels, while Jordan Reid led the Eagles with 21 points.

Lady Rebels fall hard to Lady Eagles 68-21

The Zion Chapel Lady Rebels were simply outmatched Friday night in a 68-21 loss to the Providence Christian Lady Eagles. Rebecca Dowd scored 22 points to lead Providence, while Madison Longchamp added 17.

Kinston Bulldogs outscored by Bobcats 84-54

The Kinston Bulldogs moved up in class Friday night to battle the 4A Opp Bobcats and suffered an 84-54 loss, in Opp. A.J. Johnson poured in 26 points to lead the Bulldogs, while the Bobcats were led by Todd Lacey with 18 points and W.C. Lane with 15.

Lady Bulldogs fall hard to Lady Bobcats 50-25

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs found out why the Opp Lady Bobcats are one of the state's top ranked teams Friday night as they suffered a 50-25 setback, in Opp. Kalleigh Sanders and Christie Whigham both scored 9 points to lead Kinston, while Kiara Henderson scored 14 points to spark the Lady Bobcats.

Brantley Bulldogs edge past Wildcats 70-67

The sixth-ranked Brantley Bulldogs needed back-to-back three-pointers by Kevin Pitts to ease past the Florida Wildcats 70-67, Friday night in Brantley. Pitts scored 18 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead the Bulldogs, while Jeffery Daniels added 12 points and 11 rebounds, Terry McClain added 12 points and Thad Frazier scored 11.

Lady Bulldogs win 57-54 battle over Florida

The Brantley Lady Bulldogs clinched the area championship Friday night with a hard fought 57-54 win over the Florida Lady Wildcats, in Brantley. Sherry Gully scored 16 points to lead Brantley, while Eliska Person added 15 and Jessica Daniels scored 12. Chelsea Davis scored 17 points to lead Florida.

Fish Art Contest open to students ages 12 and under across state

The Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division and Wildlife Forever announce the Ninth Annual State-Fish Art Contest for Alabama students. The nationwide contest encourages young artists to draw and learn about their state fish and fish from other states as well, and to compete for art scholarships to attend the Art Institutes International Minnesota.

This year, the entry rules have changed to permit young artists to create an illustration of any official state fish depicted in its natural habitat. The artwork must be the contestant's original, hand-drawn creation. Participants must include a written composition on the fish's behavior, habitat, and conservation. If contestants select to depict Alabama's state fish, they will have two choices. Alabama is unique in that it has two state fish. The largemouth bass is the Alabama state freshwater fish, and the fighting tarpon is the state saltwater fish. The contest is open to all students in grades



Kinston Lady Bulldog Heather Marlowe (24) shoots over a would be defender in recent high school basketball action. The Lady Bulldogs will be the #2 seed next week when the area tournament tips off at Providence Christian, in Dothan.

(Photo by Mike Capps)

Salt springs in Clarke County create new questions about old practices and beliefs

By Bruce Todd, Wildlife Biologist, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Located within the confines of Clarke County, Alabama, are several salt springs. These springs were once tapped for the purpose of producing salt for landowners and for commercial interests. Private entities likely made use of this source of salt for many years prior to the commercial production of salt, which began in this area in 1809. Salt works were established in three locations in the county and were known as the upper, central, and lower. Five sections of land at these locations were later deeded to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in the mid 1930s and became core areas for the establishment of two wildlife sanctuaries.

It should be noted that these salt springs were not gushing streams, but instead were saline oozes or seeps. Pipes were sunk into these seeps, and saline was collected from them in large pots or vats. The brine was then boiled in order to evaporate the water and extract the salt. Salt production became, for a time, big business in these areas. Based on a report dated Aug. 12, 1816, the combined output of saline from these three salt works totaled over 138,000 gallons per day with a potential production rate of 750 bushels or 39,000 pounds of salt per day.

Relics from the old salt works have been excavated and studied by archaeologists and documentation has been made of the associated communities of people who worked at the saltworks or provided a related service or product. The plant and animal communities associated with one of the salt works have also been studied. Researchers from West Alabama University conducted an inventory of both the flora and fauna located around one of the salt wells on the Stimpson Wildlife Sanctuary in southern Alabama.

For more information about the salt springs, contact the Clarke County Historical Museum at 251-275-8684 or West Alabama University at 205-652-3414. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through five divisions: Marine Police, Marine Resources, State Parks, State Lands, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries.

Men's softball tournament set for Feb. 17 at Clayhatchee Park

There will be a men's softball tournament on Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Clayhatchee Community Park. The entry fee is \$125 per team, and each team must provide its own regulation

softballs. A 5 home-run rule will be used.

The deadline to enter is Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. For more information call Nancy at 334-598-4322.

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AUCTION U.S. Marshal & U.S. Bankruptcy

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Elba Housing Authority will be accepting Sealed Bids for one wood frame house located at 1207 N. Claxton Avenue, Elba, Alabama. The bid price should include the removal of the house and clearing of the lot where the house is located. All interested parties should submit bids to the Elba Housing Authority by Monday, February 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. The Elba Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Elba Housing Authority

1130 Deal Street
Elba, AL 36323
(334) 897-2737 or 3532
elbaha1130@charter.net

1/25, 2/1, 8-Chg.

LEGAL NOTICE

McInnis, LLC hereby gives notice of completion of contract with the State of Alabama for construction of Project No. BR-0189 (500) in Coffee County. This notice will appear for four consecutive weeks beginning on 1-18-07 and ending on 2-9-07. All claims should be filed at 1120 Parker Street, Montgomery, AL 36108 during this period.

McInnis, LLC

1/18, 2/5, 2/1 and 2/8 - cc

Small Ads Work! You're Reading One.

Daniel Boone Log Home Auction

Fort Payne, AL Sat. Feb. 17th
Bids delivery up to one year. Package includes cash, food, logs, vehicles, more, more, more, etc.
Daniel Boone Log Homes
30 New Line Homes (100% of the auction)

Public Notices

IN THE PROBATE COURT FOR COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ELBA DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of CAROLYN M. KELLEY, Deceased.

Case No. PC-07-003

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Letters Testamentary of said deceased having been granted to DWIGHT W. KELLEY, Personal Representative, on the 16th day of January, 2007 by the HONORABLE WILLIAM O. GAMMILL, Probate Judge for Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

DONE this 16th day of January, 2007.

/s/ Dwight W. Kelley
Personal Representative
1-25-2-1-8 p

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY ADMINISTRATOR OR EXECUTOR

ESTATE OF CLEO BROWN, DECEASED

PROBATE COURT PC-07-001

Letters of Administration of said deceased having been granted to the undersigned the 16th day of January, 2007, by the Hon. William O. Gammill, Judge of the Probate Court of Coffee County, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

/s/ Leo Brown
Personal Representative
1-25-2-1-8 p

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CLASS

(Continued from Page One)

weaker personality.

Hussey also spoke of things women can do to develop a preventative mind set.

First and foremost, he said a woman should not enter an environment where she does not feel safe. He said to always be alert for others paying special attention or following.

Hussey also suggested staying in crowds or areas that have high witness activity, and he said to always maintain the points of escape.

Other suggestions Hussey presented to the ladies included: Maintain your space, especially with people you don't know; Don't be afraid to speak out and be convincing; Don't open the door for someone you don't know; don't leave keys to your house in any obvious place; do not put your name and address on your keys; and never allow your vehicle to have less than 1/2 tank of gas.

Officer Hussey concluded the evening's lesson by demonstrating methods of defense women can use to get away from their predator.

Both Chief Hanchey and Officer Hussey said they would be willing to present the class again if enough interest was generated. Therefore, those interested should contact Chief Freddy Hanchey at the Elba

Police Department (897-2555).

The date for Phase II of the current Women's Safety course will be announced later. Again, this will be the firearm safety class. For more information or to sign up, contact Chief Freddy Hanchey at the Elba

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New Brockton High School Honor Rolls - 2nd Reporting Period

"A" Honor Roll
7th Grade: Shelby Adkins, Claire Bailey, Savannah Ellis, Jena Freese, Dannelly Mock, Darian Morrow, Kimberly Stephenson
8th Grade: Cailynn Bastion, Whitney Brantley, Alyssa Brown, Brandi Hendrix, Heather Hendrix, Chelsey Holloway, Belinda Jones-Pitt, Steven Smith, Courtney Williams
9th Grade: Shelby Brown, Adam Pope
10th Grade: Chelsea Dempsey, Daniel Pair, Jessica Parrish, Chelsea Smith
11th Grade: Josh Adkison, Kristine Fitzgerald, Daniel Kelley, Kendall Perrin, Rachel Troyer, Beth Vaughan
12th Grade: Justin Corbitt, Adam Crosby, Tyler Moore, Andrea Proffitt

"A-B" Honor Roll
7th Grade: Amber Barnett, Tim Beavers, Priscilla Bryan, Melissa Church, Sloan Cooter, Kaitlan Crosby, Lindsey Foster, Andrew Furukawa, Abbey Gatlin, Sanh Herbert, Laken Hornsby, Matthew Richard, Allison Snell
8th Grade: Tiffany Adams,

Aubrey Baer, Shelby Caradine, Brittany Clarke, Nathan Compher, Rob Driggers, Ja'miah Dunn, Aubrey Hawkins, Megan Jones, Lynn Kerrigan, Angela Marshall, John Morgan, Dakota Morris, Keltzie Myers, Garret Potete, Kayla Purvis
9th Grade: Emily Bowers, Abby Dunaway, Justin Farris, Skyler Lee, Cassidy Moore, Eltonne Muhammad, Nick Stephenson, Krista Thomas, Brook Winburn, Kelly Wood, Kristin Wood
10th Grade: Ashley Anderson, Katie Donaldson,

William M. Johnson Jr. graduates from basic combat training in S.C.

Army Pvt. William M. Johnson Jr. has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony,

Marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises.

He is the son of William Johnson of Sunshine Tower, San Antonio, Texas, and Robin Johnson of New Brockton, Ala.

Johnson is a 2006 graduate of New Brockton High School.

Health Fair held at Damascus Senior Citizens Center



DaySpring Hospice sponsored a Health Fair at the Damascus Senior Citizens Center last Thursday afternoon, Jan. 25, and those in attendance seemed thankful for the informative event. Anita Cawley, a representative of DaySpring Hospice, said the organization sponsors health fairs such as the one at Damascus in rural areas because it is sometimes difficult for the seniors to attend the bigger health fairs held in cities. Several health checks were provided during last Thursday's health fair including checks on blood pressure, oxygen level, blood sugar, hearing, and a blood mobile was onsite for those interested in donating blood. Cawley said DaySpring hopes to sponsor several health fairs at different senior centers this year throughout a four county span. Nellie English, director of the Damascus Senior Citizens Center said she felt the health fair was a beneficial event for the seniors served in the Damascus area. She said seniors from other centers also were invited to attend the event. As shown in the top photo, many of the seniors enjoying the afternoon health fair stayed long after they had their checks completed just to sit and talk with friends. The photo to the left shows Starla Flowers completing a blood sugar check on one of the seniors. The health fair also proved to be a great source for information regarding various medical services.

Tri-County Valentine pageant set for Feb. 10th

The 2007 Tri-County "Valentine Sweetheart" pageants, sponsored by the members of the Elba Masonic Lodge #170, will be held Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Elba High School auditorium beginning at 6 p.m.

The age divisions will include: Tiny Miss (1-2 years old); Toty Miss (3-5 years old); Little Miss (6-8 years old); Mini Miss (9-11 years old); Junior Miss (12-14 years old); and Miss Tri County (15-18 years old). There is an entry fee to participate.

For questions, contact: Starla Amison at 897-8301 after 4 p.m.; Lowayne Parks at 897-3907; Ray Kyle at 897-5851 after 5 p.m.; Jim Dodd at 897-2835 or Herb Winters at 897-3095.



Mike and Wendy Baker Hanson
Christy Edwards and Michael Laramore
Shay Johnson and Robert Corley
Katie Vaughan and Stephen Harbin
DeAnn Smith and Neil Grantham

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INSIDE

Elba's Brittany Phillips meets renowned author

INSIDE

Bill Dean speaks at Elba Kiwanis Club meeting

The Elba Clipper

Volume 110, Number 35 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, February 8, 2007 1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Elba Police arrest burglary suspect

by Linda Hodge, Editor

A continuing investigation by the Elba Police Department in regards to a rash of burglaries resulted this week in the arrest of one suspect.

Elba Chief of Police Freddy Hanchey said his department has been working to solve several burglaries of local businesses. On Tuesday, Feb. 6, Chief Hanchey said officers were able to arrest Carl W. Howell, age 42, of Elba, Ala., allegedly in connection with two burglaries.

Chief Hanchey said the arrest of Howell was made possible in cooperation also with the Opp and Andalusia police departments.

According to Hanchey, Howell was arrested and charged with two counts of burglary third degree. He said the arrests were in connection to the Tuesday, Jan. 23, burglary of Bradshaw Pest Control and the Thursday, Feb. 1, burglary of Subway of Elba.

Robbery suspect captured by Elba Police

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Quick response by members of the Elba Police Department resulted in the arrest of a robbery suspect early Sunday morning, Feb. 4.

According to Elba Police Chief Freddy Hanchey, an alleged robbery of the Elba Shell station was reported at approximately 12:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 4. Elba Police Officer Donnie Farris and Investigator Andy Guter responded to the complaint.

Chief Hanchey said the store clerk on duty at the Elba Shell said an individual entered the store, presented himself as having possession of a weapon and demanded money. Hanchey

said the store clerk drew a weapon on the individual. At this point, he said the individual reportedly turned and fled the scene.

Shortly thereafter, Chief Hanchey said officers located a subject fitting the reported description of the robbery suspect. He said the officers returned the suspect to the store for identification.

Following identification by the store clerk, Chief Hanchey said Phillip Oneal Musgrove, a resident of County Road 377, Elba, was arrested and charged with robbery first degree. Musgrove was transported to the Coffee County Jail where he remained (at press time) with no bond.

Coffee County Sheriff's Department investigates burglaries

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Sheriff's Department this week continues an investigation of several reported residential and commercial burglaries within the county.

According to Chief Deputy Ronnie Whitworth, the burglaries have involved the taking of guns/weapons, jewelry, tools, alcoholic beverages, money, electronic equipment, DVD's, cellular telephones, hunting equipment, etc. He said the burglaries have occurred from the south end to the north end of the county.

Last week, Chief Whitworth said the department was able to arrest two suspects. He said the arrests were made possible through the help and cooperation of the Coffee County Sheriff's Department.

Burglary investigation reunites dog with owner

According to officials with the Coffee County Sheriff's Department, the recent burglary of a home on County Road 728 resulted in a Jack Russell Rat Terrier dog being taken among other items.

The dog, named "Scooter," his food and kennel were allegedly taken from the residence.

Ronnie Whitworth, chief deputy with the Coffee County Sheriff's Department, said officers with his department asked the Enterprise animal control officer to "watch out for Scooter."

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, it was reported that a dog matching Scooter's description had been turned in at a local veterinarian's office.

Scooter was positively identified by his owner, and the animal was reunited with his family. Chief Whitworth said Scooter appeared to be unharmed.

assortment of items were taken.

Officers said video evidence from surveillance cameras assisted officers in identifying Howell as a suspect. At the time Investigator Tony Harrison arrested Howell for the burglary charges in Elba, the suspect reportedly was in the Covington County Jail in regards to other charges.

"We also are hopeful other charges will be forthcoming," Hanchey said.

Chief Hanchey said it appears the alleged suspect may have sold some of the items taken during the burglaries. Therefore, he asks that anyone who may have purchased an item from the suspect contact the Elba Police Department at 897-2555.

Elba Police ask for help

Elba Chief of Police Freddy Hanchey said an item was reported stolen this week from the Dorsey Trailers facility in Elba.

According to Chief Hanchey, a John Deere "Gator" was taken from the facility some time between Sunday night, Feb. 4, and Monday night, Feb. 5.

Chief Hanchey asks that anyone with information that might lead to the recovery of the "gator" and/or the capture of those responsible for taking it to call the Elba Police Department at (334) 897-2555.



A new article story from author Linda M. Hodge appears this week. Chapter One of "Something Better" is located on Page 3.



MEMBERS OF THE ELBA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED in a "live burn" training exercise Monday evening, Feb. 5, in Elba. The live burn took place at an abandoned home off Claxton Avenue near the Evergreen Cemetery. The old abandoned home was designated by the City of Elba to be torn down. In an effort to allow the volunteer fire department to provide hands-on training for the firemen, the city allowed the fire department to burn the home as part of the training exercise. The volunteer firemen were eager to participate in the live burn as it allowed them to work through each step of fighting a fire. Such training exercises better prepare the firemen for the real-deal when it occurs. The top photo shows the live burn in full blaze while the photo to the right shows Elba fireman J.J. Farmer practicing the technique of window ventilation during the structure fire.

During Coffee County BOE meeting Superintendent provides construction update

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Members of the Coffee County Board of Education gathered Thursday evening, Feb. 1, for the regular board meeting and found the agenda to be rather routine.

During the meeting, Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram provided board members with an update on the school system's construction projects. She reported ongoing projects at Kinston and Zion Chapel to be progressing well.

As a side note in planning, however, Dr. Ingram said she felt it important to look at the lunchroom at Zion Chapel due to the growth at that school.

She said lunchtime at Zion Chapel is getting longer and longer simply because there is a

seating problem due to the increase in enrollment.

With this in mind, Dr. Ingram said she began looking at the area between the cafeteria and fourth and fifth grade building. She said she believes enough square footage can be added to the cafeteria in that spot to handle the seating problem.

Therefore, she asked board members to approve a change order to the current building project at Zion Chapel to allow for this square footage addition to the cafeteria. She said no plumbing will be included in this addition as the extra space will simply be used for more seating.

Board members unanimously approved her request.

Board members also approved personnel recommendations made by Dr. Ingram during the meeting. These included:

- Approve Shirley Brooks' request for catastrophic leave. Also approve leave under the Family Emergency Leave Act in the event that Mrs. Brooks is not donated enough days to use catastrophic leave.
- Employ Dennis Busby as an agriculture teacher at Kinston School. Mr. Busby will begin his employment after working out a notice with his present employer.
- Accept the resignation of Daniel Barreto effective the end of his contract.
- Accept the resignation of Merri Jernigan as an RN/Special Education aide at Zion Chapel School.

Christy Vickrey joined the Elba Police Department approximately six months ago. She serves the department as a police communications officer.

Since joining the department, Vickrey has received her NCIC (National Crime Information Center) certification. This is a requirement for all communications officers.

With the career still relatively new to Vickrey, she indicated she has yet to make a most memorable experience on the job.

In her spare time, Vickrey said she enjoys spending time with her family and reading. She and her husband have three daughters.

Communications Officer Christy Vickrey